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The foregoing notes seem to me to throw doubt on the reality of the markings reported from the Flagstaff Observatory. Until Mr. LOWELL's observations are fully confirmed by other observers with other telescopes, it will be wise not to accept them unreservedly.

EDWARD S. HOLDEN.

MT. HAMILTON, March 9. 1897.

MEASURES OF β DELPHINI, β 151.

Date.	<i>p.</i>	<i>s.</i>
1896.828	350 ⁰ .9	0".45
.839	351 .8	0 .50
..877	354 .4	0 .53
1896.85	352 ⁰ .4	0".49

These measures were made with the 36-inch telescope, using powers of 1000 and 1500. On each night the star was close to the meridian, and the seeing was good. No third star was seen, though carefully looked for on each night with powers from 350 to 1500.

R. G. AITKEN.

MT. HAMILTON, March 24, 1897.

FIRST RESULTS FROM THE BRUCE PHOTOGRAPHIC TELESCOPE AT AREQUIPA.*

The Harvard College Observatory *Circular*, No. 15, (December 30, 1896,) is devoted to the BRUCE photographic telescope (now in use by Professor BAILEY at Arequipa), and accompanied by three maps showing the splendid results which this telescope will give. It is essentially a huge portrait lens (doublet) of twenty-four inches aperture and 135 inches focus. These dimensions give stellar maps on a scale of $1' = 1 \text{ mm.}$ This scale has the advantage of being the same as that of the seventy-two charts made visually by CHACORNAC at Paris, and of the twenty charts made in the same manner by PETERS at Clinton.† The International Stellar Charts are made with telescopes of 0.33 *m.* (13.4 inches) aperture, and 3.43 *m.* (134 inches) focal length. Their scale is therefore essentially the same, but they are subject to a material disadvantage in comparison with the BRUCE telescope. The field covered by the International telescopes is about four

* See *Publications A. S. P.*, Vol. V., pp. 82 and 186.

† The focal length which will give $1' = 1 \text{ mm.}$ is 3.438 *m.*

square degrees, whereas the BRUCE telescope (a doublet) covers about twenty-five square degrees (14 x 17 plates are used). The exposures for a given magnitude are materially shorter for the latter instrument. These advantages have been pointed out by Professor PICKERING at various times and places in the years 1883-87. In 1889, Miss CATHERINE W. BRUCE, of New York, generously provided the means to carry out the suggestion of Professor PICKERING. Mr. ALVAN G. CLARK undertook the very difficult task of making the objective, and in 1896 the complete telescope was mounted at Arequipa.* The maps accompanying the H. C. O. *Circular* are wonderfully fine, and show that the plan adopted for this powerful instrument has been completely successful. The BRUCE telescope is provided with an objective prism for photographing stellar spectra; and the preliminary results with this, also, are entirely satisfactory. It appears that Professor PICKERING has abandoned his original scheme of making a complete photographic map of the whole sky with this instrument, and intends to leave the map to the International Photographic Congress. The BRUCE telescope is to be employed, at least for the present, on maps of special regions and upon spectrum photography.

Miss BRUCE and the Harvard College Observatory are to be congratulated upon the splendid success of a daring experiment.

E. S. H.

ELEMENTS OF DESCRIPTIVE ASTRONOMY: A TEXT-BOOK. By Dr. HERBERT A. HOWE, Director of the Chamberlin Observatory, Denver. Boston: Silver, Burdett & Co., 1897, 8vo, pp. 340, with 195 colored, and other, plates and figures, star-maps, etc., etc.

[Reviewed by EDWARD S. HOLDEN.]

There is always room for a good text-book of descriptive astronomy, and the present volume will be welcomed by teachers in high-schools, and by those who wish to give a general course to college students without going into the more technical details of the subject, while insisting on a full treatment of principles and an accurate account of the present state of knowledge.

Professor HOWE has, as might be anticipated, furnished a text

* A pair of telescopic doublets of 16 inches aperture is now being made by Mr. BRASHEAR for Professor MAX WOLF at Heidelberg. See *Publications A. S. P.*, Vol. VII., p. 285.